DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 479 856 CS 512 463

AUTHOR	Halio, Jay L.
TITLE	Understanding "The Merchant of Venice": A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents.
ISBN	ISBN-0-313-01038-2
PUB DATE	2003-06-30
NOTE	200p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, P.O. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881-5007 ($49.95). Fax: 203-750-9790; Web site: http://www.greenwood.com.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom - Learner (051)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Anti Semitism; Class Activities; *Classics (Literature); *Drama; Instructional Materials; Learning Activities; *Literary Criticism; Primary Sources; Reader Response; Secondary Education; Student Research
IDENTIFIERS	Casebooks; *Macbeth; Shakespeare (William)

ABSTRACT

"The Merchant of Venice," even in its own time, was considered William Shakespeare's most controversial play. Now, one of the most popular read and performed works, the play raises even more important issues for today, particularly anti-Semitism and the treatment of Jews. The analysis of the play in this casebook helps students interpret Shakespeare's plot and interwoven subplots, the sources that helped shape the play and the characters, and the thematic issues relating to justice, mercy, and the myriad bonds of human relationships. The casebook also considers contemporary applications, with essays and editorials on current hate groups in the United States, the treatment of women, and male bonding. It is divided into the following sections: Preface; Introduction; Literary and Dramatic Analysis; Venice and Her Treatment of Jews; Attitudes toward Jews; Classical and Renaissance Concepts of Male Friendship; Elizabethan Marriage; Usury, Interest, and the Rise of Capitalism; and Contemporary Applications and Interpretation. Each topic section contains ideas for classroom discussions, research papers, and further suggested readings to help students get the most out of their study of "The Merchant of Venice." (NKA)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.